

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2434
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UNCLAS KINGSTON 5733

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: LATEST POLL ON TROPICAL JAMAICAN ISSUES

DR. CARL STONE, RESPECTED POLITICAL COLUMNIST AND THE ONLY REASONABLE SCIENTIFIC POLLSTER IN JAMAICA HAS COME OUT WITH HIS LATEST. THEY ARE APPEARING SPORADICALLY IN THE STAR NEWSPAPER WHICH IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INDEPENDENT GLEANER, BOTH OF WHICH ARE CONSIDERED BY THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) AS ANTI-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPERS. THE POLLS ARE BASED ON A SAMPLING OF 960, COVERING ALL PARISHES IN JAMAICA. THE POLLS PUBLISHED SO FAR ARE:

A. JULY 10. QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THAT BORROWING MONEY FROM THE IMF HAS HELPED THE COUNTRY?

RESPONSE: YES, 46 PERCENT; NO, 40 PERCENT; DON'S KNOW, 14 PERCENT.

B. JULY 11. QUESTION: HOW ARE YOU COPING WITH THE
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INCREASED COST OF LIVING?

RESPONSE: CAN'T COPE, HOPELESS, 25 PERCENT; ECONOMISING, BUYING LESS
,
25 PERCENT; NOTHING SPECIFIC, BUT MUST SURVIVE, 15 PERCENT;
GROWING OWN FOOD, 9 PERCENT; TRYING TO PRODUCE MORE,
7 PERCENT; INCREASING PRICES TO CONSUMERS, 6 PERCENT;

TRYING TO MIGRATE, 5 PERCENT; TURNING TO GOD, 4 PERCENT;
CONSUMING SAVINGS, 2 PERCENT.

ALSO ASKED ON JULY 11. QUESTION: HOW HAVE YOU BEEN
AFFECTED BY THE DEVALUATIONS AND INCREASED TAXES ANNOUNCED
BY THE GOVERNMENT?

RESPONSE: UNABLE TO PURCHASE BASICS SUCH AS FOOD, CLOTHES,
ETC., 30 PERCENT; STANDARD OF LIVING HAS FALLEN, 26 PERCENT;
UNABLE TO COPE WITH PRICE INCREASES GENERALLY, 21 PERCENT;
MORE DIFFICULT TO FIND WORK, 12 PERCENT; DECLINE IN SALES
AND INCOME, 6 PERCENT; NOT AFFECTED VERY MUCH, 5 PERCENT.

C. JULY 13. QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THE UNIONS ARE DOING
THE RIGHT THING BY OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT'S WAGE GUIDELINES?

RESPONSE: YES, 59 PERCENT; NO, 23 PERCENT; DON'T KNOW, 18
PERCENT.

D. JULY 14. QUESTION: SOME PEOPLE THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT
IS NOW HELPING THE RICH AND FORGETTING THE POOR PEOPLE,
WHILE OTHERS THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW HELPING THE
RICH AND FORGETTING THE POOR PEOPLE, WHILE OTHERS THINK THAT
THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL TRYING TO HELP THE SMALL MAN.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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RESPONSE: STILL HELPING THE SMALL MAN, 31 PERCENT; HELPING
THE RICH ONLY, 30 PERCENT; HELPING NO ONE BUT THEMSELVES, 21
PERCENT; HELPING BOTH RICH AND POOR, 9 PERCENT; DON'T KNOW,
9 PERCENT.

E. JULY 16. QUESTION: SOME PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT
WHAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS NOW IS A COALITION GOVERNMENT MADE
UP OF BOTH PNP AND JLP LEADERS? DO YOU AGREE?

RESPONSE: DISAGREE WITH COALITION IDEA, 51.5 PERCENT;
AGREE WITH COALITION IDEA, 26 PERCENT; DON'T KNOW, 22.5 PERCENT.

F. JULY 17. QUESTION: SOME NEWSPAPER REPORTS HAVE SUGGESTED
THAT THERE IS CORRUPTION IN THE GOVERNMENT. DO YOU THINK
THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO ARE CORRUPT?

RESPONSE: YES, 84.3 PERCENT; NO, 10 PERCENT; DON'T KNOW,
5.7 PERCENT.

G. JULY 18. QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THE COUNTRY IS BEING
SABOTAGED BY IMPERIALISM OR IS IT THAT THE ECONOMY IS NOT
BEING PROPERLY MANAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT?

RESPONSE: GOVERNMENT MISMANAGEMENT: 60.4 PERCENT; IMPERIALIST
SABOTAGE, 15.4 PERCENT; BOTH, 12.9 PERCENT; DON'T KNOW,
11.3 PERCENT.
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Message Attributes

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